

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

I OPPOSE the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking #02-230. This rule would make it illegal for ordinary citizens to own fully functional digital television devices.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? Hollywood and content producers must not be allowed to determine the rights of the public to use flexible information technology. The idea of the broadcast flag is to implement universal content control and abolish the right of free citizens to own effective tools for employing digital content in useful ways. The broadcast flag is theft.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard? Of course it would interfere.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options? It would preclude developers' incentive to develop advanced consumer equipment designed for personal use.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment? Consumers would have to pay whatever content producers choose to impose. That's monopoly at its worst.